

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 28, 2007**

Members Present: Ennis, Carroll, Endres, Harden, Kitson, Lardizzzone, Magner, Newstadt, Spitzfaden, Thompson, Wasson and Webb

Members Excused: Lank, Morris and Timberman

Staff Present: Davila and Reid

Guests: Steve Gallerizzo (VAMC Acting Director), Jack Donovan (Rotary Clubs–Area 4), Al Carter (SOS), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), Burton Barr (NARFE), Cullen Beaudin and David Ramsey (Elks Lodge 2540) and Ron Sarg (MOAA) and Craig Dusenbery (MOAA/American Legion)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Vice-Chairman Ennis opened the meeting by reporting that Chairman Morris was still recuperating and introduced the guests.

Mr. Barr announced that there will be a Military Career Fair in Philadelphia, PA, on August 30, 2007. He commented that Delaware has not had a real career day since the last VA Homecoming and suggested that someone organize a military career day in Delaware.

Mr. Reid reported on the progress of the home, current employment opportunities, and special projects. The Elks presented a donation for the Veterans Home fund to Mr. Reid. Vice-Chairman Ennis questioned Mr. Reid about their policy of having social workers surrender their picture IDs when they visit the Home. Mr. Reid clarified the visitor policies, explained why this was happening and how this policy was being modified to accommodate the workers' needs. Commissioner Newstadt questioned the status of the contracts for the aquariums and Mr. Reid provided an update on the aquarium progress, and discussion followed.

Mr. Gallerizzo reported that interviews for the Director's position at the Wilmington VA Medical Center were conducted and the candidates are being reviewed. He reported on the progress of the Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). He assured everyone that patient care at the lower Delaware clinic would not be interrupted in the interim. Mr. Gallerizzo announced that there will be a Welcome Home Celebration on Saturday, September 20, 11:00am, in the lobby of the VA Medical Center in honor of the Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans. This is a national program and each veteran will be given a Welcome Home quilt and emblem badge. They are sponsoring the next POW/MIA Ceremony on Friday, September 21, 2007, 11:00 am, at Cranston Heights Fire Hall. Mr. Davila questioned the director selection process and discussion followed. Mr. Davila also questioned the extension of the services in lower Delaware. Mr. Gallerizzo explained the situation and elaborated about other services that have been planned. Commissioner Kitson questioned the choice of the location for the new Southern clinic and Mr. Gallerizzo provided an explanation.

**MOTION BY LARDIZZZONE TO ACCEPT JULY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,**  
**SECONDED BY KITSON, MOTION CARRIED.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Newstadt reported on the Cemetery statistics that were provided to the Commissioners. The Family Advisory Cemetery Committee (FACC), Southern Cemetery, met on August 22, 2007, and were provided a facilities update and a briefing on the August 24th interment ceremony. The Northern FACC will meet on October 17, 2007, 1:00 pm. Mr. Davila announced that on September 11, 2007, there will be a pre-bid meeting on the construction for the renovations at the Northern Cemetery and will open the bids at the end of the month. He also discussed projected renovations and upgrades to the Northern and Southern Cemeteries.

### **COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS**

No report.

### **FINANCE AND LOGISTICS**

No report.

### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Commissioner Carroll requested that the Steering Committee Meeting minutes continue to be distributed to the Commissioners. Mr. Carter assured him that distribution would continue. Prior to the Commission meeting, the Health and Human Services Committee reviewed the volunteer application, volunteer policy and procedures, donation policies and procedures, the donor agreement, and website donation policy. Commissioner Carroll reported on the changes made to the documents and asked each Commissioner to review them and provide feedback. The subject of a Veterans Home coin was presented for discussion and the issue was tabled. Commissioner Carroll reported that as of August 27, 2008, the balance of the Veterans Home Fund was \$78,146.77 and the Friends of the Delaware Veterans Home Fund was \$491,205.00. The next Steering Committee Meeting will be held at the Veterans Home on September 5, 2007, 2:00 pm.

Vice-Chairman Ennis reported that Kent County government is designing a memorial for the Vietnam Veterans of America to be placed on the corner of Levy Court and Little Creek Roads.

### **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

No report.

### **MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS**

No report.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

No report.

## **BY-LAWS**

No report.

## **PERSONNEL**

Commissioner Lardizzone reported that they would soon be advertising for a Conservation Technician at the Northern Cemetery.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS**

Newstadt (JWV) – The JWV had their annual picnic on August 12, 2007. On October 16, 2007, the JWV will be visiting the DAFB Museum and the Delaware Veterans Home.

Endres (40 & 8) – They are sending out applications for their scholarship fund for nurses in their senior year.

Wasson (DELVETS) – They will be hosting a picnic on Saturday, September 1, 2007. On September 29, 2007, a Frank Sinatra imitator by the name of Bob Martin will be at DELVETS for those interested.

Harden (WAVES) – They will be meeting on August 29, 2007, and collecting additional funds for the WAVES plaque to be placed at the Veterans Home. She will be volunteering for the VA at the POW/MIA luncheon previously mentioned.

Kitson (VFW) – Reported that he attended the VFW National Convention. The Red, White and Blue Gala is scheduled for October 27, 2007.

Ennis (KWVA) – They will be having their Executive Council meeting on September 21, 2007, 11:00 am, at the American Legion Post #2. The family picnic is scheduled for September 22, 2007.

Thompson (MCL) – The MCL Department meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 15, 2007, at the Army Reserve building in Dover.

Lardizzone (DAV) – He attended the National Convention in New Orleans. General Electric gave the DAV \$1.5M to be used for taps and service officers for the incoming Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans. A meeting has been scheduled for September 5, 2007, at the Department Headquarters building.

Carroll (MOPH) – An Executive meeting will be held on September 22, 2007, 11:00 am, in Smyrna. The National Convention was held in Tarrytown, NY, August 5-11, 2007. A special event was held on National Purple Heart Day, August 7, 2007, at the Hall of Honor in New Windsor, NY.

Spitzfaden (MOAA) – Their annual meeting will be held in Tampa, FL, November 14-17, 2007.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Reid reported that the Upward Bound Program, Delaware State University, is donating a piece of artwork of the Tuskegee Airmen to the Veterans Home on August 29, 2007.

Commissioner Harden announced that the Commission will be hosting the second Women Veterans Symposium on April 26, 2008, at the DelTech Terry Campus, Dover, DE.

Vice-Chairman Ennis reminded everyone that elections will be held at the September Commission meeting. The Commission meeting time will change to 10:00 am in October and the new Chairman will take over at that time.

#### **ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

Commissioner Newstadt brought up the issue of the social security number being listed on military ID cards. Mr. Davila reported on the progress he has made to date. Discussion followed about the ID cards, as well as the Air Force doing away with base stickers.

Mr. Barr reported on Senator Bunting's health; he is on dialysis.

Mr. Davila reminded everyone of the WWII film on September 10, 2007, at the Public Archives building.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:      September, 25, 2007 (11:00 AM)**

**LOCATION:                                   Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100  
Dover, DE**

**ADJOURNED**